

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 05257 031709Z
ACTION ARA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, GY, JM
SUBJECT: GUYANEST HIGH COMMISSIONER DEFENDS BURNHAM

REF: GEORGETOWN 1976

1. IN A LETTER TO THE DAILY GLEANER GUYANESE HIGH COMMISSIONER IN JAMAICA F. H. TALBOT DEFENDED PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM AGAINST CHARGES THAT BURNHAM WASTED \$484,000 (GUYANA DOLLARS) IN RECENT TRIPS TO THE USSR, NORTH KOREA, GDR AND THE UK. HE WAS RESPONDING TO ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS IN BOTH THE GLEANER AND THE STAR. HE CALLED THE CHARGES "CHEAP SENSATIONALISM" AND ASSERTS THAT:

-- NOT ALL THE MONEY ALLOCATED WAS SPENT, SINCE MOST OF THE TRANSPORTATION WAS PICKED UP BY HOST COUNTRIES.

-- THE VISITS WERE JUSTIFIED BY ECONOMIC RESULTS.

2. TALBOT CITES THREE AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH THE USSR: ONE ON CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, A PROTOCOL ON DELIVERY OF MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT UNDER AN EXISTING AGREEMENT, AND ANOTHER PROTOCOL ON A JOINT FISHING VENTURE. ALSO WITH THE USSR HE CITES TALKS ON FINALIZING A PROJECT
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PAGE 02 KINGST 05257 031709Z

TO TREBLE ALUMINA PRODUCTION.

3. WITH NORTH KOREA HE CITES SIX AGREEMENTS, INCLUDING TRADE, SCIENTIFIC/CULTURAL/TECHNICAL, MINERAL DEVELOPMENT, FORESTRY, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS. A TEAM FROM THE DPRK HAS ALREADY ARRIVED IN GUYANA TO ASSIST IN SHIPBUILDING, ACCORDING TO TALBOT. WITH REGARD TO THE

GDR AND THE UK TALBOT MERELY TALKS OF "STRENGTHENING BILATERAL RELATIONS" AND HOLDING CORDIAL AND FRUITFUL TALKS.

4. THE EDITOR DRILY NOTES AT THE END THAT THE HIGH COMMISSIONER WOULD HAVE HELPED MORE IF HE HAD DECLARED HOW MUCH WAS ACTUALLY SPENT AND HOW MUCH RETURNED TO THE TREASURY.

5. POUCHING ABOVE ARTICLE AND ANOTHER ARTICLE, A COLUMN BY WILMOT PERKINS CRITICAL OF BURNHAM IN THE SAME EDITION OF THE GLEANER.
IRVING

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